

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

MINUTES

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

13 May 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Abigail Crouse, Dave Bruckman, Harry Cosimano, Jim Wright and Brett Bragin

Absent: Tim Sullivan, Bill Rosebrock

I. Opening:

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1942 hours.

II. Minutes: The minutes of the April 22, 2003 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Karen Rose was not officially appointed as the 2nd alternate member, and the April minutes should be changed accordingly. On a motion by Mr. Cosimano, seconded by Ms. Crouse, the amended minutes for April were approved, with all in favor.

III. Correspondence: The following correspondence was received;

- a) A National Park Service Municipal Incentive Grant Application was received. After some discussion, Mr. Bragin made a motion to submit an application for this grant, seconded by Mr. Cosimano. All were in favor. Mr. Wright will assist Ms. Buckley with the preparation of the application.
- b) Received a flyer from ANJEC regarding a "monitoring of open space & conservation easements" seminar to be held on May 28th.
- c) Received a section of ANJEC's smart growth survival kit on affordable housing (COAH).
- d) A copy of an e-mail sent to all Commission members regarding ANJEC's web site that contains information about a number of model "smart growth" ordinances was provided to all members present.
- e) Received a copy of a draft letter to the State Agriculture Development Committee regarding a proposed new rule (found at N.J.A.C 2:76-22).

IV. New Business:

A) Harmony Community Day - will be held on Saturday August 23rd. Discussion was held on whether the Environmental Commission would set up an information table, and whether the Commission would be facilitating well water testing (as it had done in the past).

B) Wild & Scenic designation for the lower Delaware River - Some Township residents would like the Township to rescind its 1997 (?) resolution supporting the Wild & Scenic designation of this portion of the Delaware River. As a result, the Township Committee held a meeting on May 6, 2003 at which representatives from the National Park Service answered questions and attempted to assuage the fears of Township residents that Harmony would lose its' right of "home rule" if it continues to support the Wild & Scenic designation. The Environmental Commission discussed this issue, and whether the Commission should pass a resolution in support of the Township maintaining its support of the Wild & Scenic designation. A motion was made by Mr. Cosimano, seconded by Mr. Bruckman that such a resolution should be drafted. The votes for this motion were as follows;

Buckley - yes
Crouse - no
Bruckman - yes
Cosimano - yes
Wright - yes
Bragin - yes

Comments: The Environmental Commission supports a review of the proposed changes to the existing management plan, which should clarify the existing language (i.e., remove ambiguous and contradictory language) per the Township Committee meeting held on May 6th, 2003.

C) A discussion was held regarding Minor Subdivisions. It was noted that the Environmental Commission is able to request a lot of information when reviewing a Major Subdivision, but the Township does not require **ANY** environmental information when a minor subdivision is proposed. In the past, this has led to the loss of wetlands, springs/seeps, and has caused drainage problems when development takes place through the minor subdivision process. This issue needs to be addressed.

V. Old Business

A) Ms. Buckley wrote a second letter to the NJDEP in response to their April 10, 2003 reply letter regarding the questions the Commission asked about the Unified Environmental Services Group (i.e., Hydropress) facility. After some discussion, she will modify the letter and send it to the NJDEP, in a further attempt to get some of the Commissions questions answered.

B) On May 2, 2003, Ms. Buckley met with Unified Environmental Services representatives Thomas Winant and Phil Will regarding the questions listed in the Commission's March 30th letter to the NJDEP. The Unified folks attempted to answer our questions. Ms. Buckley gave a copy of the letter with her notes from the 5/2/03 meeting to all Commission members present. The results of the meeting were discussed. Unified will send the Commission a letter memorializing what was discussed at the meeting.

C) Centex Homes (i.e., Dowel Associates Proposed "River Walk" (Block 37 Lot 4) - Mr. Wright and Mr. Bragin provided Ms. Buckley with written comments based on their reviews of the Centex Home EIS. These comments were reviewed and discussed. The general feeling of the Commission is that the EIS failed to adequately address many of the issues addressed in the report, appeared to be hastily put together, and contained some erroneous information. The Commission took issue with the results of the interviews that were conducted in order to gather information regarding several issues addressed in the report. The questions raised by the Commission's review should be more thoroughly investigated by the project proponent, which may involve the hiring of independent experts (e.g., a karst geologist, grassland bird expert, etc.) to address some of the issues this site poses.

The question of who is the project proponent was raised, as documents supplied by the applicant variously use the following business names: Centex Homes, LLC, Calton Homes, LLC and/or Dowel Associates.

A copy of the Traffic Impact Study prepared by McDonough & Rea Associates for the Riverwalk Project was provided to all members present. All were asked to review this report and bring their comments to the next meeting.

D) Potential "wind farm" on Scotts Mountain - A resident reported getting a survey in the mail regarding a potential wind farm on Scotts Mountain. They called the Township to get more information, but none of the Harmony Township officials are aware of this potential wind farm.

There being no further business, the May meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2250 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary